

Message Text

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64

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

L-03 MC-02 IGA-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /031 W

----- 061717

R 162140Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO USCINCSO/SC-O/SC-9//

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 7737

EO 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: HELICOPTER PURCHASE BY GN

1. (C) LAST MONTH A TEAM CONSISTING OF TWO GN OFFICERS AND TWO MEMBERS OF OUR MILGP TRAVELED TO DAVIS MONTHAN AFB, ARIZONA FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSPECTING AND SELECTING FIVE USED UH1B HELICOPTERS ALLOCATED FOR FMS PURCHASE UNDER MIMEX 1423. THE TRIP WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO SELECT EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD HELICOPTERS FROM THOSE THAT ARE NOW ARRIVING FOR STORAGE FROM VARIOUS GUARD AND RESERVE UNITS. THE REPORTS AND PHOTOS BROUGHT BACK BY THE GN OFFICER PLEASED GENERAL TORRIJOS GREATLY. THE GN HAS SINCE REQUESTED THROUGH THE MILGP THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY SEVEN ADDITIONAL UH1B HELICOPTERS AGAIN SELECTING FROM THOSE AIRFRAMES NOW ENTERING THE STORAGE FACILITY. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH DOD CHANNELS (REFERENCE COMUSMILGP PN MSG. DTG 162141Z DEC 75)

2. (C) GEN TORRIJOS ENVISIONS DEDICATING FIVE OF THE 12 HELICOPTERS TO THE PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE FOR TRAINING, ARMED COVER, AND GENERAL PURPOSE MISSIONS. FOUR WOULD BE USED BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES FOR GENERAL TRANSPORTATION AND THREE WOULD BE USED PRIMARILY FOR CANNIBALIZATION OF SPARE PARTS AND MAJOR COMPONENTS. THE EXTREMELY FAVORABLE PRICE (APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 PER HELI-
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COPTER) MAKES THIS A VERY ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITY

FOR THE GOP.

3. (C) HIGHLY RECOMMEND STRONG STATE SUPPORT IN FACILITATING THIS PURCHASE. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE REQUIRED SINCE THIS EQUIPMENT HAS YET TO BE OFFERED BY DOD TO OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH THE MIMEX PROGRAM. WE HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT THIS PURCHASE CAN BE A POSITIVE STEP IN ALL RESPECTS IN VIEW OF GEN TORRIJOS INTEREST AS WELL AS THE EXCELLENT QUALITY OF EQUIPMENT AND THE FAVORABLE PRICE.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750437-0764
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751235/aaaabfbb.tel
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: HELICOPTER PURCHASE BY GN
TAGS: MASS, PN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006